

Qualifications/Duties of Church Officers

Elder Qualifications – 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9

- I. Personal Qualifications**
 - A. Male – 1 Timothy 2:11-14 (men called to lead the church)
 - B. “Sober-Minded” (“temperate”) – Avoiding extremes.
 - C. “Self-Controlled” (Prudent”) – Showing good judgement, sound mind, and curbing of one’s desires and impulses. Fruit of the Spirit!
 - D. “Respectable” – Orderly and men worthy of respect.
 - E. “Not a drunkard” – not given to excessive drinking. Alcohol, or any other substance, must not control an officer of the church of Christ.
 - F. “Not violent but gentle” – Not a contentious person. Not quick to disagree with someone. Instead, fair-minded, considerate, and gentle towards all. Gentleness is NOT weakness!
 - G. “Not quarrelsome” – “peaceable,” Titus 3:10-11.
 - H. “Not a lover of money” – Vine’s Dictionary “without covetousness.” Free from improperly desiring money. See 1 Tim. 6:10
 - I. “Not a recent convert” – Should be a mature believer in Christ. Note: Part of the meaning of the word “Elder.”
- II. Public Qualifications**
 - A. “Above Reproach” – no questionable conduct that would bring accusations. An Elder is to be the kind of man no one suspects of wrong-doing or immorality.
 - B. “Hospitable” – is receptive and open to people and their needs.
 - C. “Well thought of by outsiders” – At work, neighbors, family, etc., have a morally and ethically upright testimony with the unsaved.
- III. Family Qualifications**
 - A. “Husband of one wife” – If married, married to one wife. A man happy and content with his wife! He is faithful in all things to his one wife—a faithful husband who honors his marriage vows.
 - B. “He must manage his household well.” Must be a spiritual leader in his home. You must bring order into the structure of the house.
 - C. “With all dignity keeping his children in submissiveness.” Their children respectfully obey.
- IV. Ministry Qualifications**
 - A. “Aspires to the office.” Must have a desire/eagerness to serve! See 1 Peter 5:2
 - B. “Able to teach.” Having the ability (gifts/graces) to instruct God’s people in the doctrines of Holy Scripture.
 - C. Titus 1:9 - “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to instruct in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Elder Duties/Functions

- A. Prayer – Acts 6:4
- B. Shepherd/Pastor – 1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:28
- C. Preaching/Teaching – “declare whole counsel of God” Acts 20:27
- D. “Ruling” 1 Timothy 5:17
- E. “Equip the Saints for ministry” Ephesians 4:12
- F. Administer sacraments (baptism and the Lord’s Supper)

Deacon Qualifications – 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6

- Note the overlap in the deacon qualifications and elder qualification list.
- John Stott’s four areas of Deaconate emphasis:
 - 1) Self-Mastery: Dignified, no “double tongue,” “not addicted to much wine,” “not greedy.”
 - 2) Orthodox Convictions: Holds to the “mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.”
 - 3) Tested and approved: Examined by the Church, period of testing, proven to be blameless.
 - 4) Home Life: wives dignified, not slanderous, sober-minded, and faithful.

Deacon Duties/Functions

- A. Acts six two-fold principle. 1) Relieve shepherds to pray and advance the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2) Provide for the physical welfare of the needy.
- B. 1 Timothy 5:9 – Enrollment list for “widows.”
- C. Financial oversight implied.
- D. Meaning of the word “deacon.” Servant.